

JUNE 1993

IMPORT HEALTH REQUIREMENTS OF ISRAEL  
FOR BOVINE EMBRYOS EXPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES

The embryos must be accompanied by a U.S. Origin Health Certificate issued by a veterinarian authorized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and endorsed by a Veterinary Services (VS) veterinarian. The certificate shall contain the name and address of both the consignor and consignee and complete identification of the donor animals and the embryos to be exported. Additional information shall include:

CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS

1. The United States has been free of foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia for at least 6 months prior to the dates of embryo collection and export.
2. The embryos in this shipment are the progeny of cows and bulls from herds and artificial insemination centers which are free of brucellosis, vibriosis, trichomoniasis, tuberculosis and vesicular stomatitis.
3. The herds of origin of the donor cows have been, during at least 6 months prior to the day of embryo collection and at least until 60 days later, under constant supervision of a USDA accredited veterinarian, who paid at least one weekly visit to the said herds during the said period.
4. During the said period, no clinical signs of infectious or contagious diseases transmissible to cattle have been observed by the accredited veterinarian in the herd of origin.
5. Semen used to inseminate the donor cows met the import requirements for bovine semen from United States to Israel.
6. The embryos in this shipment have had no contact with and were not stored in the same container with other embryos which do not have the same health status.

TEST REQUIREMENTS

The donor cows were negative twice to the following tests within 30 days prior to or on the day of embryo collection and at least 60 days after collection.

1. Leptospirosis: Microtiter agglutination test at 1:400 dilution for L. autumnalis; L. canicola; L. grippotyphosa; L. Hardjo; L. icterohaemorrhagiae; L. pomona; and L. sejroe. Vaccinated donors must show no increase in titer between the two samples. Vaccinated status must be shown on the health certificate.
2. Bluetongue: Agar-gel immunodiffusion (AGID) test.
3. Epizootic hemorrhagic disease: AGID tests using Alberta and New Jersey antigens.

4. Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/infectious pustular vulvovaginitis: Serum neutralization (SN) tests with no rise in titer between the two samples.
5. Enzootic bovine leukosis: AGID test.
6. Brucellosis: Standard tube agglutination tests (less than 30 iu/ml; negative at 1:50).
7. Tuberculosis: Intradermal caudal fold tests using bovine PPD tuberculin.
8. Vesicular stomatitis: SN tests at 1:8 dilution.

#### COLLECTION/WASHING REQUIREMENTS

1. The collection of embryos should be made under strict hygienic conditions.
2. Washing of the embryos. Before the embryos are handled for freezing they must be washed in 10 changes of embryo culture media. The pipettes used to transfer the embryos between washes must be changed after each of the 10 transfers, and each wash should constitute a hundred-fold dilution of the previous wash.
3. The washing medium should be specified in detail on the certificate.
4. Sterilized tanks should be used for storing the embryos and separate sealed vials or straws should be used for each embryo.
5. Only embryos with intact zona pellucida are to be processed up to, and including freezing.

#### OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1. The following additional information must be indicated on the certificate:
  - a. The name and address of the organization collecting and freezing the embryos.
  - b. The name and herd book number of donor cows and bulls.
  - c. The embryos' identification numbers, days post insemination that the embryos were collected, and the type and markings of the container.
2. A prior permit to import embryos must be obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture, Veterinary Services and Animal Health, Post Office Box 12, Beit Dagan, 50200, Israel.

3. Legible copies of completed test charts must accompany the certificate.

OTHER INFORMATION

Constant veterinary supervision means that the veterinarian is employed on a contractual basis and has at least once a week visits for herd health observation and has direct supervision during the collection process.

Veterinary supervision of the herd of origin should have existed for at least 6 months prior to collection of the embryos for export.

Embryos for export to Israel are only permitted from the 18 Northeastern States which are: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota.

Herd Freedom for tuberculosis, brucellosis, trichomoniasis, vibriosis and vesicular stomatitis shall be based on there being no official reports of the diseases in the herd during the 6 months prior to collection of embryos.